

REMARKS

The amendments to independent claim 1 more narrowly define the inventive process for converting petroleum derived wax so as to provide a high gas oil yield. The preamble of the claim is modified to emphasize that the process is a single-step process that is focused on providing for a high gas oil yield from the conversion of a wax feedstock. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs [0003], [0011] and [0038] of the application publication. The recited hydrogenation component of claim 1 is modified to specifically require it to be a platinum component that is present in the range of from 0.1 to 5.0 wt. %. Support for this limitation is found in the specification at paragraphs [0026] and [0032]. The recited binder component of the claim 1 is modified to specifically require it to be silica that is present in the catalyst at a zeolite-to-silica ratio in the range of from 5:95 to 95:5. Support for this limitation is found in the specification at paragraphs [0018] and [0031]. Claim 1 is additionally amended to explicitly require the single-step process to provide for the yielding of a product that includes both a base oil fraction and a gas oil fraction, and, further, requiring the gas oil fraction yield to be significantly high with the gas oil fraction of the yielded product necessarily being larger than the fraction of the yielded product that boils below the gas oil fraction of the yielded product. Support for these limitations are found in the specification at paragraphs [0011] and [0033] through [0038].

Claim 10 is canceled due to the incorporation of its limitations into independent claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 as being obvious over the Van Balleoy publication (WO 00/29511) in view of the Chen publication (Molecular Transport and Reaction in Zeolites). With the amendments made to the only independent claim of this application, it is submitted that the newly claimed process is directed to one that provides the unexpected high gas oil yield from the conversion of a wax feedstock using a specifically defined catalyst. Thus, the applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection and requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

It is submitted that the prior art does not teach the use of the specific catalyst recited in the claimed single-step process for converting a wax feedstock to provide a high gas oil yield, especially, a gas oil yield which is greater than the non-gas oil yield. Thus, such a yield is unexpected.

In view of the above, the applicant respectfully submits that the invention as it is now claimed is unobvious over the prior art, and, therefore, requests early allowance of the claims 1-9.

Respectfully submitted,

NICHOLAS J. ADAMS

By Charles W. Stewart/

Attorney, Charles W. Stewart
Registration No. 34,023
(713) 241-0360

P.O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463